

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Trans-Carpathian Oblast)	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED] 25X1A
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE:

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1. A permanent State Geological Exploration Commission (GosGeologoRazvedka), a field agency of the USSR Geological Exploration Administration of the All-Union Mining Ministry in Moscow, had been working in Trans-Carpathian Oblast since 1946. The task of this commission was exploration of the area for its natural resources and the preparation of future exploration projects.
2. The chief of the State Mining Inspectorate (Gosudarstvennaya Gorno-Tekhnicheskaya Inspektsiya) for Trans-Carpathian Oblast in Uzhgorod, Portvey Kastrovich Pestovskiy, [REDACTED] the following information concerning discoveries which had been made in Trans-Carpathian Oblast by the State Geological Exploration Commission (see AMS map 1:100,000, Sheet W-17, Mukachevo):
 - a. Oil was discovered in several localities on the western slopes of the Hat Mountains, especially in the region east of the village of Drahobratovo. The fields were supposed to be quite rich, although there were no detailed data on them; production had not started by June 1952.
 - b. Large quantities of lignite were discovered in many localities along almost the entire stretch of the western slope of the Hat Mountains from the Latorica River to the Irsava River. Lignite was also found northeast of the Irsava River on the southern slopes of the Velikij Dil Mountains. Some of these mines, such as the Berezinka coal mines, were opened in 1947 and had been working at capacity since then. Pestovskiy [REDACTED] the Illice mines had been expanded and other new mines planned. Brown coal discoveries in the oblast greatly exceeded oblast requirements, so much of it was to be exported.

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- c. Gold had been found in the valley of the Turja River, about three kilometers east of the village of Poroškov and south of the river. According to PESTOVSKIY, who was supposed to have supervised the mining, gold sand and gold nuggets were found there in the clay, and especially in petrified clay (which was the predominant type of land in that region). Work there was begun in 1951, and PESTOVSKIY had even offered

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already been removed and several workers' barracks built. As far as I knew, the extraction of the gold was supposed to be done locally.

- d. The State Geological Exploration Commission had also discovered some uranium in Trans-Carpathian Oblast; however, I do not believe PESTOVSKIY knew the exact places where it had been found, since [REDACTED] He was positive, though, that such discoveries had been made.

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- e. The commission had also discovered many new rock salt deposits, some of which extended over a considerable area in layers 3-3½ m. thick.

3. The State Mining Inspectorate in Uzhgorod /4838N-2219E7 was responsible for supervising all mining enterprises in Trans-Carpathian, Lvov, and Chernigov oblasts. In the beginning of 1951 this inspectorate was transferred to Lvov so it would be central to all three oblasts.

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